

# Summary

*of the*

## **Joint Meeting of the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Work Groups**

### ***Morning Session***

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) Work Groups of the CALFED Watershed Program (Watershed Program) and the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) met on April 16, 1999, in Sacramento. The purpose of the joint meeting was to obtain and share information of the two Programs and begin to explore opportunities for collaboration.

#### **Introductions**

Watershed Work Group co-chair, Martha Davis (Californians and the Land) began the meeting by introducing the meeting facilitator, Dave Ceppos (Jones & Stokes Associates). Introductions of the attendees followed. A list of meeting participants (Attachment A) and handouts (Attachment B) is included.

#### **Approaches of the Watershed and Ecosystem Restoration Programs**

Steve Ritchie (CALFED Bay-Delta Program) introduced the first agenda item by illustrating some of the similarities of the two programs. He stated that the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a “watershed program” in total. He added that a watershed approach can be viewed as a triangle with management, public participation, and science at the three corners. Although both the ERP and Watershed Program contain all three elements, they have taken different approaches in the formation and coordination of the Programs. Mr. Ritchie stated that the ERP originally concentrated heavily on management and moved toward the science and public participation elements. The Watershed Program, on the other hand, has focused heavily on public participation and is moving towards management and science. Mr. Ritchie expressed the need for interface between the two programs to create a better balance. However, he added that one Program should not be consumed by another.

Roberta Borgonovo (BDAC/ERP Work Group Chair) stated that there is integrity to each of the Programs - each has its’ own value; however, there are some areas of overlap. She explained that the joint meeting is a beginning to address the need for integration among the Programs and improve the communication among them. Martha Davis concurred with Ms. Borgonovo’s comments.

## ***Ecosystem Restoration Program***

Dick Daniel (ERP Manager) presented an overview of the ERP. He explained that over the ERP's four-year history, CALFED has facilitated meetings all over the state to gain opinions and information to include in a comprehensive plan. A draft of the ERP Plan was originally released in March 1998 for public review, of which CALFED received hundreds of comments. Mr. Daniel explained that the ERP Plan is focused on science and management because the Program staff feel those elements are necessary in order to protect the integrity of the ERP.

The current ERP Plan has had significant scientific review. In addition, a core group of scientists gathered together to draft the Strategic Plan for ERP. The Strategic Plan describes a framework and guidelines for implementing the ERP. Chapter 6 of the Strategic Plan illustrates the Stage 1 Action Plan.

Mr. Daniel provided an overview of the Draft ERP Work Plan. The work plan is composed of three principal work efforts:

- The development of **White Papers** on key scientific issues by work teams of Bay-Delta scientists to provide a scientific context for ERP actions (the first papers completed by mid-July, others prepared as needed for scientific workshops);
- Convening **Scientific Workshops** attended by Bay-Delta scientists and resource managers to select and design high-priority restoration actions in an adaptive management approach (convened by UC Davis starting mid-July and continuing through winter of 1999); and
- **Regional Meetings** with scientists, local government officials and stakeholders to evaluate proposed adaptive management strategies and identify restoration opportunities (convened by CALFED staff and local groups starting in the winter of 1999/2000 and continuing until completion of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR in late spring of 2000).

## ***Watershed Program***

John Lowrie (Watershed Program Manager) presented an overview of the Watershed Program. Mr. Lowrie explained that the intent of the Watershed Program is to put in place a community led framework for watersheds of the Bay-Delta system, focusing on the four broad objectives of CALFED: ecosystem quality, water supply, water quality, and levee system integrity.

Mr. Lowrie stated that the Watershed Program Plan is composed of three primary components: elements, principles, and desired outcomes. The Watershed Program staff are currently working on the desired outcomes which will be included in the Revised Draft Watershed Program Plan. The elements of the Watershed Program are: Coordination and Assistance; Adaptive Management and Monitoring; Education and Outreach; Integration with Other Common

Programs; and Understanding Watershed Processes. Interwoven in these elements are a set of guiding principles which were developed in close collaboration with the Watershed Program Work Group. The Principles state that CALFED supports watershed activities that:

- Are community based;
- Collaborate and are consistent with CALFED;
- Address multiple watershed issues;
- Are coordinated with and supported at multiple levels;
- Provide for ongoing implementation;
- Include monitoring protocols; and
- Increase learning and awareness.

### ***Discussion***

A discussion followed the overview of the ERP and Watershed Program. The discussion focused on the following points/questions:

- Integration between CALFED objectives and local programs.
- Need for a mechanism to make coordination happen.
- How will CALFED prioritize areas of implementation?
- How to improve the relationship between macro- and micro-land managers?
- What does “integration” of Programs mean? How is it done? How far does it go?

The following are specific questions and comments made by the meeting attendees:

- A meeting participant asked Mr. Daniel about the level of local participation in the ERP. He responded that the ERP staff members have met with various land use managers. For example, staff has met with Shasta County regarding gravel management and harvest, and discussed how those activities may affect zoning. ERP staff members have also met with Butte County regarding actions on Butte Creek. Mr. Daniel also offered an example in the Delta where ERP scientists developed a model regarding tidal action. The model was presented to the Delta Protection Commission who raised concerns that implementation

of the model would affect the land use practices. CALFED and the Delta Protection Commission worked very hard together to develop a new plan focusing on public land and willing landowners.

Mr. Daniel also recognized that it is important to coordinate ERP actions with the local land managers because some actions could be undone. The ERP would like to “match-up” with local General Plans to ensure that both parties are on the same track. Mr. Daniel acknowledged that such an effort will be a substantial task, which further increases the need for ERP actions to be based on sound science.

- Mr. Daniel was asked about interaction among the ERP and county officials with regard to watershed planning. He responded that CALFED has had an intense relationship with counties. In the northern areas a group of county supervisors has assembled to work with CALFED - primarily focusing on the ERP and storage.
- A comment was made by a meeting attendee regarding CALFED’s reluctance to address issues related to the San Joaquin River. Mr. Daniel replied that CALFED does have aggressive plans for areas in the Delta to the mouth of the Merced River. However, he added, because of pending litigation it does not make sense to propose restoration actions above Friant Dam. Mr. Daniel explained that as part of the Program’s adaptive management process, CALFED would become involved if the courts decide to re-water.
- A meeting participant inquired about CALFED’s involvement in decision making processes at the state level. Mr. Daniel responded that when CALFED was originally formed, the Program staff was intentionally not given any regulatory authority. Furthermore, it has been concluded that it is inappropriate for the CALFED Program to be involved in governmental decision making processes. Mr. Daniel added that various state and federal agencies do have close communication through the Policy Group.
- A comment was noted about the disconnect between the ERP and Watershed Program - CALFED not only needs to be connected at the local level, but also needs to be aware of what is occurring internally. Ms. Borgonovo responded that the joint meeting is an attempt to improve the integration.
- Mr. Daniel was asked how the ERP would prioritize restoration actions. He responded that although the CALFED Program is a 30-year endeavor, focus is heavily placed on Stage 1 (first seven years of implementation). The ERP is focusing on recovery of endangered species in Stage 1.
- A meeting participant noted that the ERP was necessary because there was not a systemic view at a macro-scale. However, after focusing on a macro-scale view, it can be difficult to identify activities at a micro-level. What is lacking is how to improve the relationship between macro- and micro-land managers. How can CALFED make this a collaborative

approach?

- A comment was noted regarding the importance of adaptive management and monitoring - a component of both the ERP and the Watershed Program. It was added that science is also critical to both programs; it is necessary to identify what is known, as well as unknown.
- A meeting participant stated that CALFED needs to know what is going on at a finer level because the actions that they propose may affect activities at a local level. A process is needed to aid this communication.
- A suggestion was made by a meeting attendee that the CALFED scientists should work in concert with the local land managers and groups. These individuals can provide local expertise and knowledge to the process. Mr. Daniel responded that it would be helpful to compile a list of local resources to contact.
- A meeting participant commented that combining the ERP and the Watershed Program was not a good idea. It is important to establish strong links, but collapsing the Programs would cause objectives to get lost. Although there are some similarities among the two Programs, the Watershed Program is more process and relationship driven. Another meeting attendee added that the ERP is more focused on specific problems, whereas the Watershed Program is more focused on building local relationships.
- A meeting attendee commented that the Consumnes River has been identified as a prototype by the Comprehensive Monitoring Assessment and Research Program (CMARP). It was suggested that this watershed could be a place where CMARP, ERP, and the Watershed Program could all work together.

The following items were identified as common themes and understandings:

- CALFED will be implemented at the local level.
- Need to develop a process to pursue regional implementation.
- Need for sound science.
- Need for adaptive management and monitoring.
- Need for education and outreach.
- Need to marry CALFED goals with that of local goals.
- Need to integrate solutions for all species (e.g. wildlife and humans).
- Need to apply a holistic view of watersheds as a basis for developing solutions.

### *Next Steps*

It was suggested that an additional joint meeting of the ERP and the Watershed Program be

scheduled before the Regional Meetings. This will provide an opportunity to more fully discuss how the ERP and Watershed Program can collaborate to host successful and effective Regional Meetings.

In addition the following items were identified as possible future steps to better integrate the ERP and the Watershed Program:

- Involve local technical specialists as part of the ERP “white paper” process and scientific workshops.
- Incorporate the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) into scientific workshops.
- Set up a list server amongst the ERP and Watershed Program Work Groups to facilitate communication.
- Compile a list of contacts for local expertise; provide to ERP staff.
- Identify one to two liaisons/ambassadors from each Work Group to disseminate information.

### *Afternoon Session*

The Watershed Work Group continued to meet after the lunch break to discuss matters related to the Watershed Program.

#### **Governance**

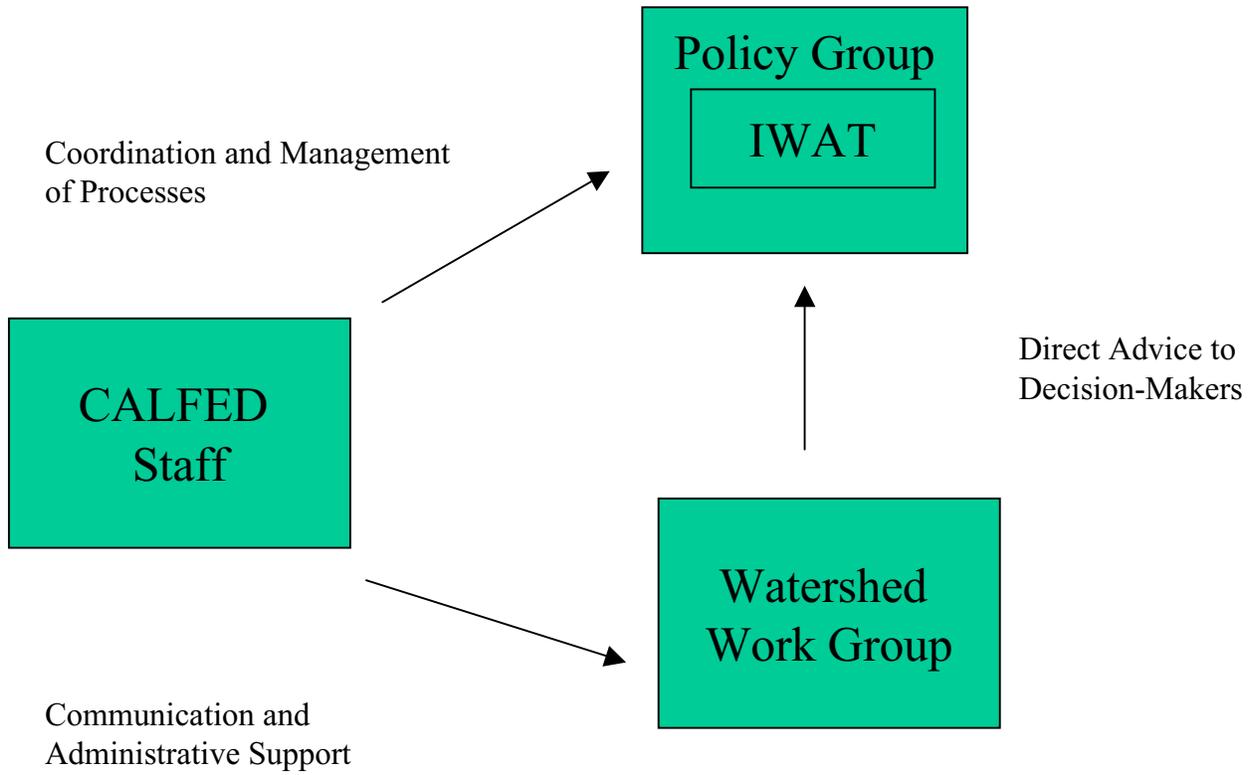
Mr. Lowrie began a discussion on Watershed Program governance for both the interim and long-term. He stated that for the interim it is assumed that the CALFED Policy Group will remain in place; CALFED Program staff will remain as the management/coordination role; and there will be no new legislation. The interim period may last approximately three years. For the long-term it was assumed that some form of oversight will continue to exist. It was noted that this will likely require legislation.

Mr. Lowrie explained that currently there are three advisory groups to the Watershed Program, the Watershed Work Group and agency representatives which make up both the Policy Group and IWAT. Based on these advisory roles, an organizational diagram was proposed (see Figure 1). Mr. Lowrie explained that the IWAT was included in both the box illustrating the Policy Group and Watershed Work Group to ensure that there is effective communication among the agencies and stakeholders.

- A meeting participant asked how this proposed governance structure differs from the current scenario. Mr. Lowrie replied that CALFED is in a planning phase now, the proposed governance structure is for implementation. During implementation the Watershed Work Group, Policy Group, and IWAT will have a more substantial role. The Watershed Program staff’s role will be refined to coordination and management

responsibilities.

**Figure 1. Proposed Governance Organization for the Watershed Program**



- A question was asked regarding how on-the-ground projects will be funded and implemented. Mr. Lowrie responded that watershed projects could go through a proposal process, be directed actions, and/or be implemented by agencies. Mr. Lowrie added that if activities were assigned to agencies they would be very specific actions.
- A comment was noted expressing appreciation for the attendance of IWAT members at the Watershed Work Group meetings. The close interaction among the IWAT representatives and stakeholders is very important.

It was agreed that the discussion on Watershed Program governance would be continued at the next Watershed Work Group meeting.

### **Watershed Legislation**

Laurel Ames provided an update on Assembly Bill No. 730 (AB730). A group of stakeholders meet earlier to discuss elements of the bill. Some stakeholders volunteered to draft the following concepts for the watershed legislation.

- Proposed scope;
- Purposes and assumptions;
- Coordination of local watershed groups and government agencies;
- Roles and responsibilities; and
- Funding.

The draft concepts will be given to Assembly Member Dickerson as comments/suggestions for AB730. A future meeting to discuss the legislation was planned for Friday, May 21, 1999. The draft concepts will be presented at this time. Ms. Ames agreed to present the results of this meeting and the draft concepts at the next Watershed Work Group meeting.

### **Watershed Presentation**

Nettie Drake (Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed CRMP) gave a presentation on her experiences in overseeing the Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Program (CRMP). The watershed is approximately 300,000 acres and located on the westside of San Joaquin Valley. Mendota is the only municipality located in the watershed.

Ms. Drake explained that when she came on board the CRMP had been in existence for six years. The landowners were very upset with flooding problems, in addition to erosion, water quality, and soil problems. Ms. Drake explained that the CRMP now works closely with the landowners, and landowner involvement has increased from 2 to 200 since she began working with the CRMP. The CRMP's charge is to develop projects to address problems identified by the landowners. In 1996, the CRMP received a grant to conduct a sedimentation study. The study evolved into modeling and field work. The CRMP is now applying for grants to conduct a multitude of projects including implementation of best management practices (BMPs); addressing water quality problems on Silver Creek; and working with landowners, CA Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a 12-mile stretch of Panoche Creek.

### **Meeting Wrap-Up**

The next Watershed Work Group was scheduled for Friday, May 21, 1999, location to be announced. The Watershed Work Group will continue to meet on the third Friday of every month.

## *Attachment A*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Allen, Bob	Burney Forest Products
Ames, Laurel	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Aumack, Laurie	Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy
Barris, Lynn	Friends of the River
Bobker, Gary	The Bay Institute
Borgonovo, Roberta	League of Women Voters/BDAC
Ceppos, Dave	Jones & Stokes Associates
Cervantes, Rick	Lake County
Clamurro, Lori	Delta Protection Committee
Cowdin, Steve	California Department of Water Resources
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Daniel, Dick	CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Davis, Martha	Californians and the Land
Dawley, Vicky	Tehama County Resource Conservation District
deAlba, Fernando	City of Mendota
Denzler, Sara	California Department of Water Resources
Dingfelder, Jacqueline	For the Sake of the Salmon
Drake, Nettie	Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed CRMP
Fainter, Michael	CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Fitch, Steve	Office of Assembly Member Dickerson
Harthorn, Allen	Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy
Heiman, Dennis	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Henly, Russ	California Department of Forestry
Jerauld, Frank	Amador Resource Conservation District
Kiel, Peter	CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes Associates
Laycheck, Eugenia	California Center for Public Dispute Resolution/CALFED
Letl, Dennis	California Department of Water Resources
Liebersbach, Debbie	Turlock Irrigation District
Lindquist, Donna	Plumas Corporation/Feather River CRM
Madison, Mary	UC Davis
Mar, David	Westlands Water District
Meacher, Robert	Regional Council of Rural Counties/BDAC
Miyamoto, Joe	East Bay Municipal Utility District
Morrison, Douglas	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nakamura, Gary	Shasta Tehama Bioregional Council
Nelson, Earl	Western Area Power Administration

Nutting, Ray  
O'Connor, Dennis  
Ohlson, Grace  
Pacheco, Teresa  
Parkin, Ann Marie  
Pendleton, Dennis  
Petry, Edward  
Pyle, Stuart  
Rentz, Mark  
Reynolds, Rogene  
Roberts, James  
Robinson, Dave  
Schultz, Sara  
Sime, Fraser  
Smerlser, Mark  
Smith, Larry  
Smythe, Tome  
Thomas, Rick  
Tuma, D.A.  
Tupper, Julie  
Vargas, Al  
Turner, Martha  
Wehri, Tom  
Wollan, Otis  
Zuckerman, Tom

Regional Council of Rural Counties/El Dorado Co. Supervisor  
California Research Bureau  
  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Metropolitan Water District  
University of California Davis  
  
Kern County Water Agency  
California Forestry Association  
San Joaquin Resource Conservation District  
Sacramento Environment Commission  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
California Department of Water Resources  
Cotton, Shires and Associates  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Lake County  
Metropolitan Water District  
Libertarian Party  
U.S. Forest Service  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
  
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
American River Watershed Institute  
Central Delta Water Agency

**Meeting Handouts**

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- ✓Meeting Agenda;
- ✓Memorandum re: Description of the Draft ERP Work Plan and Program Integration;
- ✓Draft Watershed Program Implementation Strategy dated March 12, 1999;
- ✓Proposed Governance Organization for the Watershed Program;
- ✓Assembly Bill No. 730;
- ✓Proposed Scope for Assembly Bill No. 730;
- ✓Senate Bill No. 1088;
- ✓BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary - February 19, 1999;
- ✓BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary - March 19, 1999; and
- ✓BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Participants (as of March 19, 1999).